

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 ACDA-05

OMB-01 SCCT-01 /058 W

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R 061337Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5653

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 7729

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EG

SUBJECT: SID AHMAD TALKS ABOUT HIS BOOK

REF: STATE 182189

1. IN VIEW DEPARTMENT'S INTEREST IN SID AHMAD'S NEW BOOK (REFTEL), WE PASS ALONG COMMENTS MADE BY SID AHMAD TO EMBOFF AUGUST 5.

2. ACCORDING TO SID AHMAD, OF 850 COPIES ON SALE IN CAIRO, 600 HAVE BEEN BOUGHT. HE NOW NEGOTIATING WITH PENQUIN FOR WORLDWIDE DISTRIBUTION OF ENGLISH EDITION, AND PREFERS PENQUIN TO OTHER PUBLISHERS. HIS WIFE WILL DO ENGLISH TRANSLATION AND HAS COMPLETED FIVE CHAPTERS. DISCUSSING REACTION TO BOOK, SID AHMAD SAID PLO PRIVATELY AGREES WITH MOST OF HIS VIEWS BUT BELIEVE TIME WAS NOT RIGHT FOR PUBLIC ADVOCACY OF PEACEFUL ISRAELI-ARAB COEXISTENCE. HE HAS SENT BOOK TO MOSCOW TO SOLICIT VIEWS OF SOVIET PROPAGANDISTS BELYAEV AND PRIMIKOV, WHO HE BELIEVES WILL QTE LIKE IT VERY MUCH UNQTE. SADAT, HOWEVER, IS DISPLEASED WITH BOOK. MANUSCRIPT WAS SHOWN ONLY TO HAYKAL AND WELL-KNOWN COMMUNIST FUAD MURSI. SID AHMAD WILL CONTINUE TO RESSPOND IN PRINT TO ARAB NATIONALIST CRITICISMS OF BOOK, AND HIS LATEST RESPONSE WAS TO BE PUBLISHED IN
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BEIRUT DAILY AL-BALAGH, SINCE AL-NAHAR REJECTED IT.

NEWSWEEK'S ARNOLD DE BORCHGARVE, WHO HAD ROUND-TABLE DISCUSSION WITH THREE EGYPTIANS ON BOOK AT AHRAM THREE WEEKS AGO, HAS PREPARED LONG CRITIQUE FOR PUBLICATION SOON.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: SID AHMAD REQUESTED US TO GET FOR HIM TEXT OF ROSENFELD ARTICLE AND ALSO RECENT JERUSALEM POST EDITORIAL ABOUT HIS BOOK. WE WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT AND AMBASSY TEL AVIV POUCHING US THESE TEXTS FOR OUR OWN, AS WELL AS SID AHMAD'S, EDIFICATION.
MAESTRONE

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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